



Limestone Creek Natural Area



Natural Areas Program

- Over 31,000 acres of County-owned and/or managed lands protected to maintain the diversity of biological communities and species.
- Open from sunrise to sunset, 7 days/week including holidays.
- Available for passive, natural resource-based, recreation activities such as hiking, bird watching, nature study, and photography, as well as for environmental education and scientific research.
- Other recreation uses, such as horseback riding, bicycling, and fishing are permitted in designated areas on a site-specific basis.

Project Area Location

- 6570 Church Street in Jupiter.
- The natural area is part of NENA (Northeast Everglades Natural Area), a collection of 165,000 acres of conservation lands and activity and education centers in northern Palm Beach County and southern Martin County offering a wide range of nature-based outdoor recreational opportunities.

Plants & Animals

- Site contains 4 native ecosystems: mesic flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, hydric hammock, and tidal swamp.
- Listed plants observed: tiny polygala, wild cotton, common wild pine, giant wild pine, Simpson stopper, cinnamon fern, and royal fern.
- Listed animals observed: gopher tortoise, West Indian manatee, American redstart, little blue heron, yellow-crowned night-heron, and bald eagle.



Project Overview

- Historically, fire exclusion, invasive nonnative vegetation, hydrologic alterations, and canal construction have impacted this 53-acre site.
- Restoration activities have included the following:
 - ✓ Removed over 13,000 pounds of trash.
 - ✓ Eradicated Brazilian pepper, Old World climbing fern, Australian pine, and rose myrtle infestations.
 - ✓ Constructed 2 lowhead dams (weirs) to rehydrate the historic blackwater Limestone Creek by reducing water velocity, increasing upstream hydration, preventing salt water intrusion, and promoting freshwater pooling.
 - ✓ Constructed 3 oxbows, covering approximately 4.5 acres to create estuarine habitat while reducing turbidity and erosion from water released from the C18 Canal.
- Upland areas were expanded by planting approximately 2,100 native grasses and plants.
- Public use facilities available include:
 - ✓ 150-foot fishing pier on the west end of the northern oxbow.
 - ✓ Observation platform on the east end of the northern oxbow.
 - ✓ Hiking trail from the fishing pier west to Island Way Road over the upper weir.
 - ✓ Public parking and an accessible trail to the observation platform off Church St.
 - ✓ Multi-use trail along both sides of the C-18 Canal.
 - ✓ Kayak/canoe launch.
 - ✓ Parking on the south side of the C-18 Canal off Island Way and Central Blvd.

Project Partners

Palm Beach County, Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative, Indian River Lagoon License Plate Grant, Manatee Protection Fund, Town of Jupiter



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